

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 9. Claim 10 has been amended to correct its dependency from amended claim 8. Claim 9 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-7 and 11 are allowed. Accordingly, claims 1-8 and 10-11 are pending and under consideration.

II. THE REJECTION OF CLAIM 8 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER ATKINSON AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF YOSHIDA

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reason.

Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 9.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of independent claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claim 10 is allowable at least because of its dependency from claim 8.

III. CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 50-3333.

Respectfully submitted,

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